

The International Association
for the Study of Traditional Asian Medicine



IASTAM will be hosting a series of webinars:

The 'pan' of pandemics: why and how Asian approaches matter

The aim of the first webinar is to explore some of the overall questions which this theme calls us to reflect upon. The webinars which will follow will then each focus on one aspect within this overall theme.

First webinar: July 8th 2020, New York 9am, London 2pm

Berlin 3pm, Beijing 9pm, Sydney 11pm

Link:

<https://uni-kiel.zoom.us/j/97252014788?pwd=OG5vMitZM2lGSVpwNThkWm9VOWsrdz09>

Meeting ID: 972 5201 4788

Password: 072020

Introduction: *Prof. Angelika Messner (Kiel University)*

Moderator: *Dr Ronit Yoeli-Tlalim (Goldsmith, University of London)*

IASTAM (International Association for the Study of Traditional Asian Medicine, <http://iastam.org/>) unites scholars such as medical historians, anthropologists, specialists in life science, translators, ethnobotanists and practitioners of Asian medicines from around the world, studying and practising various aspects of Asian medicine. IASTAM has emerged as a key advocate for incorporating the combining academic research of the clinical, socio-political and historical sites of medical cultures within Asian and Global contexts. IASTAM is unique in

encompassing diverse national and international organizations related to Asian medical traditions.

SPEAKERS

Prof. Monica H. Green (Arizona State University):

Historical Contours of the Medieval Afro-Eurasian Disease Landscape: New Findings from Genetics and Medical History

Recent developments in genetics have given a new resolution to long-standing questions about the origins and dissemination histories of the world's major infectious diseases. This brief presentation will summarize what is now known about seven diseases that originated in Afro-Eurasia: plague, leprosy, tuberculosis, smallpox, measles, and the treponemal diseases, syphilis and yaws. The increasing resolution of these disease narratives provides a basis for assessing not only when and how Asia was affected by them, but also how medical responses may have developed at both local and transcontinental levels.

Prof. Volker Scheid (London)

Some Moments in the Encounter between Chinese Medicine and Covid-19

Before eventually some stable narrative will emerge about what Covid-19 is and does I will present some disparate moments in the encounter between Chinese medicine and this as yet only partially understood entity. My focus will be on the choices that various actors make in this encounter, ranging from the liberal press in the West to Chinese medicine practitioners and patients in China and the West. In these encounters Covid-19 is invariably constructed as a threat as well as an opportunity in struggles over ideology and status as much as health and sheer physical survival.

Prof. A. David Napier (UCL, London)

Sick Societies and the Flow of Life

In the early 1980s I conducted fieldwork on ritual healing in Indonesia. The timing coincided with the then-emerging HIV/AIDS pandemic. Though the pandemic proved devastating globally, it was often understood at local levels in ways at odds with global narratives about mortality and morbidity. In particular, indigenous

views of human agency in the face of biological threat alerted me to other ways of understanding viral diseases as invasive—especially in Bali, where the presence of potentially infectious foreigners was, and yet remains, ubiquitous and unavoidable. These lessons apply equally today in the face of Covid-19.